

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ADP-00 SS-15 NSC-10 AID-20

CIAE-00 DODE-00 HEW-08 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 PRS-01

RSC-01 SCA-01 USIA-12 SCS-03 IGA-02 EB-11 COME-00

OIC-04 OMB-01 TRSE-00 SCI-06 PC-15 AGR-20 RSR-01 /194 W

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FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 155

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY FORT LAMY

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

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ROME FOR FODAG

PARIS FOR RAICHT AND MAURICE WILLIAMS

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SUBJ SUMMARY OF UN MEETING ON MEDIUM AND LONG TERM
SUDANO-SAHELIAN DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

1. SEPTELS PROVIDE SUMMARIES MAJOR INTERVENTIONS VARIOUS GROUPS REPRESENTED AT JUNE 29 MEETING CHAIRED BY UN DEPSYG MORSE TO DISCUSS MEDIUM AND LONG-TERM DEVELOPMENT NEEDS IN DROUGHT-STRICKEN SAHEL. THIS TELEGRAM DISCUSSES SOME OF ISSUES DEALT WITH AT CONFERENCE, EITHER IN FORMAL PRESENTATION, IN INTERPRETATION OF THOSE STATEMENTS, OR IN CORRIDOR EXCHANGES.

2. NOTABLE WAS LIMITED AFRICAN PARTICIPATION, ALTHOUGH THIS DUE LARGELY FAILURE BY UNSYG GET INVITATIONS TO AFRICANS ON TIMELY BASIS. AS RESULT, HOWEVER, ONLY SAHEL REPRESENTATIVES WERE UPPER VOLTA MINAGRICULTURE DAKOURE AND UPPER VOLTA AMBASSADOR TO US. DAKOURE HAS OF COURSE BEEN OFFICIALLY DESIGNATED BY SIX AFFECTED GOVERNMENTS AS CHAIRMAN OF SAHEL INTERSTATE COMMITTEE AND THUS COULD APPROPRIATELY REPRESENT WHOLE REGION. LACK OF OTHER AFRICAN PARTICIPATION, HOWEVER, MADE IT IMPOSSIBLE OBTAIN ANY REALISTIC IMPRESSION WHETHER DAKOURE REALLY EXPRESSING GENERALLY ACCEPTABLE AFRICAN VIEWPOINTS. SINCE INTERSTATE COMMITTEE DOES NOT IN FACT EXIST BEYOND PERSONALITY OF DAKOURE AND MALI REPRESENTATIVE KONATE, IT ALOS OBVIOUSLY DIFFICULT JUDGE AT THIS TIME WHETHER COMMITTEE WILL EVER BE ABLE RESPOND TO HEAVY EXPECTATIONS OF IT AROUSED BY DONORS AT THIS MEETING. IT ALSO UNLIKELY MAJORITY OF DELEGATIONS RECOGNIZE PRESENT FRAGILITY OF INTERSTATE COMMITTEE STRUCTURE.

3. KEY ISSUE LEFT DANGLING BY CONFERENCE WAS HOW REAL RECOVERY PROGRAMS WILL GET DEVELOPED AND BY WHOM. DAKOURE MADE CLEAR HE CONSIDERED THIS TO BE WHOLLY AFRICAN RESPONSIBILITY. MANY DELEGATE STATEMENTS, MOST NOTABLY FRENCH BUT ALSO UNSYG, OTHER UN AGENCIES, FED, US, ETC. ACCEPTED THIS BASIC PROPOSITION WITH EMPHASIS ON ROLE INTERSTATE COMMITTEE. DESPITE SUCH ACCEPTANCE IN PRINCIPLE, MANY STATEMENTS BY MORSE AND OTHER SUGGESTED NEED FOR "WE", THAT IS DONOR COMMUNITY, ESTABLISH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PRIORITIES OR DESIGN PROGRAMS TO MEET MEDIUM/LONG-TERM PROBLEMS WITHOUT SEEMINGLY RECOGNIZING HOW THIS APPEARED CONTRADICT THEIR EXPRESSED EXPECTATIONS REGARDING ROLE INTERSTATE COMMITTEE.

AS EXPECTED, FRENCH CONTINUED THEIR VERY HARD EXPRESSION REGARDING PRIMORDIAL ROLE OF AFRICAN GOVERNMENTS IN MAKING REQUESTS TO WHICH FRENCH AND OTHER

DONORS MIGHT RESPOND. HOWEVER, THEY PRIVATELY RECOGNIZED THAT THERE INSUFFICIENT AFRICAN CAPACITY AT THIS TIME TO CARRY OUT THIS ROLE, PARTICULARLY GIVEN PRESENT URGENCY AND ENORMITY OF PROBLEM, AND THAT DONORS SHOULD BE READY RESPOND BY PROVIDING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE WHERE REQUESTED TO HELP IN PROGRAM DESIGN PROCESS. DAKOURE IN PRIVATE DISCUSSION WITH MEMBERS US DELEGATION ON OTHER HAND INDICATED THAT HE FELT AFRICAN GOVERNMENTS HAD MOST CAPACITY NEEDED TO DEVELOP PROGRAMS, SO LONG AS DONORS DON'T MAKE UNREASONABLE DEMANDS REGARDING ECONOMIC CRITERIA AND HOST GOVERNMENT COUNTERPART CONTRIBUTIONS, AND ONLY LIMITED FOREIGN EXPERTISE WOULD BE NEEDED IN EXERCISE. FAO REPRESENTATIVES SEEMED TO FEEL THEY HAD UNDERSTANDING WITH DAKOURE THEY WOULD SOMEHOW PLAY MAJOR ROLE IN SUPPORTING HIS EFFORTS DEVELOP PROGRAMS EVEN THOUGH ROLE ENVISIONED BY FAO DELEGATE WOULD SEEM ON ITS FACE TO BE DIFFICULT FOR FRENCH TO ACCEPT.

US DELEGATION COMES OUT OF THIS MEETING FRANKLY FEARFUL THAT THERE REMAINS MAJOR AREA OF MISUNDERSTANDING AND PERHAPS DISAGREEMENT OVER HOW PROGRAMMING PROCESS WILL GO ON AND THAT THIS WILL BE MANIFESTED IN VARIETY OF WAYS IN COMING MONTHS. FIRST TEST OF HOW PROCESS WILL WORK WILL PRESUMABLY BE WHEN DAKOURE RETURNS TO OUAGADOUGOU AND BEGINS ORGANIZE SERIES OF TECHNICAL SUB-COMMITTEES HE HAS PROMISED.

4. RELATED TO ABOVE QUESTION IS THAT OF KNOWING JUST WHAT PROGRAMS DO IN FACT EXIST OR MAY BE IN PROCESS. DAKOURE FEELS MARCH MINISTERIAL MEETING IN OUAGADOUGOU PROVIDED HIM WITH ADEQUATE GUIDELINES AND THAT IN FACT THERE ARE ALREADY AVAILABLE A RANGE OF PROJECT PLANS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WHICH COULD BE IMMEDIATELY IMPLEMENTED IF ACCEPTED BY DONORS. THAT WAS CLEARLY PURPOSE OF HIS QUESTION TO US DELEGATE AS TO WHOSE CRITERIA WOULD PREVAIL IN ACCEPTANCE OF PROJECTS FOR FINANCING BY DONORS. FAO HAD PRESENTED ON JUNE 28 TO DEPSYG MORSE SERIES OF PROPOSALS FOR ACTION, AND FROM SIDE COMMENTS OF FAO REPRESENTATIVES THEY SEEM FEEL THESE ARE EARLY ACTIONABLE. FRENCH EQUALLY SEEM FEEL THERE ARE NUMBER OF PROGRAMS AVAILABLE FOR RELATIVELY EARLY FINANCING. YET AS FAR AS CAN BE DETERMINED, MAJORITY OF ACTIVITIES CONSIDERED READY ARE IN FACT PROJECTS WHICH HAVE BEEN ON SHELF FOR SOME TIME, MANY OF WHICH ARE INADQUATELY PREPARED ON TECHNICAL GROUNDS, AND MOST OF WHICH REPRESENT LONG-TERM, UNFINANCED DESIRES RATHER THAN PROJECTS SPECIFICALLY DESIGNED IN TERMS OF MEDIUM TERM DROUGHT RECOVERY.

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 156

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5. THERE REMAINED CONSIDERABLE LACK OF CLARITY AS TO
WHAT IS MEANT BY EMERGENCY, MEDIUM AND LONG-TERM NEEDS.
MOST DELEGATES APPEARED ACCEPT A DEFINITION OF MEDIUM
TERM WHICH INVOLVES RE-ESTABLISHING ECONOMIC LIFE TO
POINT WHERE NORMAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS CAN AGAIN BE

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EFFECTIVELY UNDERTAKEN. HOWEVER, MORSE ALSO ACCEPTED THAT FAO WOULD CONTINUE BE RESPONSIBLE FOR COORDINATING EMERGENCY REQUIREMENTS THROUGH 1974-1975 AND AS FAO IS INTERPRETING "EMERGENCY" REQUIREMENTS THERE MAY WELL BE SOME OVERLAP WITH RECOVERY EFFORTS. OTHER THAN US DELEGATION AND AN INITIAL FRENCH ATTEMPT BEGIN TO DEFINE SUCH DISTINCTIONS, THERE WAS LITTLE RECOGNITION GIVEN TO DIFFERENTIATING BETWEEN MEDIUM AND LONG-TERM PLANNING AND PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS. IN FACT TWO CONCEPTS WERE CONSISTENTLY LUMPED TOGETHER. HOWEVER, VARIOUS DELEGATIONS DID FIND US EFFORT TO MAKE SUCH A DISTINCTION TO BE USEFUL AND ONE OF THREE CONCRETE REQUESTS MADE IN MORSE'S FINAL STATEMENT AS THAT US PROCEED WITH INITIAL ANALYSES PROPOSED IN ITS STATEMENT CONCERNING FURTHER DEFINING LONG-TERM ALTERNATIVES.

6. FRENCH REACTION TO CONFERENCE WAS MIXED AND, IN THE END, UNCLEAR. BASED ON DISCUSSIONS IN PARIS AND BEFORE CONFERENCE ACTUALLY OPENED, IT SEEMS MORSE HAD LARGELY CONVINCED THEM HIS APPROACH WAS DESIRABLE AND WOULD BE SUPPORTIVE OF FRENCH CONCERNS. BY MIDDAY, HOWEVER, FRENCH WERE DEEPLY CONCERNED BY REPEATED SUGGESTIONS BY UN AND OTHER DONOR OFFICIALS THAT SOMEHOW OR OTHER DONOR COMMUNITY RATHER THAN AFRICAN GOVERNMENTS SHOULD BE ESTABLISHING RECOVERY PRIORITIES AND DESIGNING RECOVERY PROGRAMS. THIS LED TO VERY STRONG REITERATION IN THEIR STATEMENT ABOUT PRIMARY PROGRAMMING ROLE REMAINING WITH AFRICAN LEADERSHIP AND FRANCE'S WILLINGNESS BE RESPONSIVE ONLY TO REQUESTS FROM SUCH LEADERSHIP. DESPITE THIS, IT WAS GENERAL IMPRESSION THAT BY END OF DAY FRENCH WERE AGAIN SOMEWHAT MORE REASSURED THAT STRUCTURES BEING SUGGESTED BY MORSE WERE IN FACT POTENTIALLY EFFECTIVE FOR MAINTAINING MOMENTUM AND A FORM OF CENTRALIZED RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN MUCH OF DONOR COMMUNITY AND INTERSTATE COMMITTEE. THEIR CONTINUED REACTION TO ALL OF THIS WILL OBVIOUSLY DEPEND LARGELY ON HOW UN SYG NOW CARRIES OUT WHAT IT CONSIDERS TO BE ITS MANDATE.

7. IT IS OUR IMPRESSION THAT MORSE CAME OUT OF MEETING FEELING THAT HE HAD SUCCESSFULLY ESTABLISHED A
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SYSTEM FOR EFFECTIVE COORDINATION OF UN ACTIVITIES IN MEDIUM AND LONG-TERM AND THAT HE HAD ALSO ESTABLISHED USEFUL BASIS FOR COLLABORATION BETWEEN HIS

OFFICE AND INTERSTATE COMMITTEE. HE AHS CLEAR MANDATE
TO ESTABLISH SMALL COORDINATING STAFF IN HIS
OWN OFFICE AND A LIAISON OFFICE IN OUAGADOUGOU AND
EFFECTIVENESS OF THOSE STAFFS WILL HAVE MAJOR IMPACT
ON WHETHER MORSE CAN SUCCEED IN WHAT HE HAS SET OUT
TO DO.BASSIN

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